



Office of
Environment
& Heritage



PERISHER RANGE PROJECTS 2016 - 2017

Project Summary Report for Consultative Committee Meeting

November 2016

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1 Budget 2016/17

For the 2016/2017 financial year the Perisher Team has an allocated operating budget of \$3.962M (similar to the \$3.932M for 2015/16). The capital funding has increased from 2015/16 (\$69k) with \$309k available for 2016/17.

2 Outline of Works

Sewerage

- **Sewer Reticulation Repairs**

The ongoing annual sewer inspection program will be paused of 2016/17 with the \$35k allocated for CCTV investigation of sewer mains being allocated to repairs. This gives a total budget of \$60k for sewer repairs which will involve a number of separate small localised repairs rather than replacement of full sections of sewer line. The repairs will be undertaken in North and Central Perisher, and Smiggin Holes.

- **STP Sludge \ Biosolids Reuse**

South East Waste Recovery have been granted a second one year extension to undertake the Perisher STP sludge removal. This will again see the biosolids transported to a property near Berridale and direct injected into the ground to improve soil condition. This work will commence on 14 November and is expected to take 4 to 5 weeks with \$125k being allocated to the work.

Water

- **Weir Maintenance**

A small amount of operating funds (\$8k) has been allocated to undertake some minor maintenance work on Pipers Creek weir to rectify some minor leaks and remove sods and sediment that were washed into the weir pool during the July flood event.

Roads

- **Roads Maintenance**

Gravel roads maintenance within the Perisher Range Resorts is scheduled to commence in early December. The contractors will undertake resheeting and grading works to repair damaged areas and if needed will return again in March/April 2017 to give the roads a final preparation before the winter season. An operating budget of \$80k has been allocated for gravel roads maintenance and an additional \$25k for asphalt repairs which again will mainly focus on the Ski Tube turning circle area.

- **Bridge Maintenance**

An engineering assessment of the internal road bridges will be undertaken this year. The last assessment was in 2009 and a revisit is timely given the flood event that occurred in July 2016.

- **Road Concreting**

The primary capital works project proposed for the upcoming summer period is the concreting of approximately 160 metres of Porcupine Road. The expected cost of this project \$300k, including approximately \$35k expected to be associated with water main installation/diversion costs. The works will cause some temporary road closures and communication with affected lodges has commenced as well as looking into alternative access arrangements during the road closure periods.



This section of work was identified as the highest priority road upgrade following an evaluation of the most effective use of the funds to reduce known erosion issues and maximise user benefits. Plate 1 below shows the impact on surrounding vegetation from the loss of road base due to heavy rainfall from this section of road.

The project will be managed internally and will be tendered as four separate components being stormwater, water supply, concrete dish drain, and road concreting. NPWS will manage environmental controls, site rehabilitation and landscaping. The stormwater component is currently out to tender with work expected to commence in early December. The aim is to have the project completed prior to the school holiday period in April 2017.



Plate 1 Loss of road base/sediment from Porcupine Road due to heavy rainfall over 2016 winter.

Waste

- **Organics Composting**

With improvements to the education of stakeholders and refining collection handling systems, the aim of recovering 100 tonnes of organics over the 2016 winter was exceeded. Approximately 120 tonnes of organics was collected over the season (up from 65 tonnes in 2015) and is currently being processed at Sawpit Creek (refer Plate 2). Following the composting process the 2015 and 2016 product will be combined, tested and utilised in the rehabilitation of the former access road to the Catholic Church.





Plate 2 Organic waste collected over the 2016 winter being composted at Sawpit Creek.

Environment

- **Plants**

Another 4,000 plants are to be planted across the three resort areas in February and March 2017. As per previous years, the planting will be undertaken by both contractors and Perisher Team field officers. Planting will focus on maintaining existing, thickening and replacing losses in previous planting areas.

- **Pests**

After a couple of years hiatus, shooting events will be relied upon as the preferred rabbit control option over the summer period. Whilst the contract trapper has been on site at Perisher he has been engaged to undertake several opportunistic shooting events which to date have resulted in approximately 20 rabbits per 1 to 1.5 hour event. This may be followed up by further events using authorised NPWS staff depending on the availability of qualified shooters.

Commentary on flood event - 22 July 2016

On 22 July 2016, a significant weather event delivered a large amount of rainfall (148 mm) and associated strong winds to the Snowy Mountains region. This unprecedented winter rainfall event delivered a record volume of inflow into the Perisher STP (4.6 ML) and the loads on the sewage reticulation network exceed the pumping capacity at two locations resulting in the overflow events at Perisher SPS No. 2 and Smiggin Holes SPS.



The outflow from the Perisher STP remained above 2 ML/day for four days and the STP suffered a loss in processing performance due to the drop in tank temperatures. The Perisher Team staff focused their efforts on recovering these temperatures and as a result it appears the impacts were relatively short term.

All relevant authorities and stakeholders were notified of the overflow events in accordance with the Perisher Range Sewerage System Pollution Incident Response Management Plan. Other operational issues caused by the rainfall event included the isolation of North Perisher for several hours as vehicle bridges were submerged due to the high level of Perisher Creek.



Plate 3 Perisher Creek in flood with manhole PO/1 in foreground (photo taken 22 July 2016).



Plate 4 Perisher Creek in normal winter conditions (photo taken 28 July 2016).